

Therefore, Applicant provides herewith a courtesy copy of the front page of the certified copy of the priority document and a courtesy copy of the date stamped filing receipt to evidence its filing. Therefore, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner acknowledge Applicant's filing of the certified copy of the priority document.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-5 are all of the claims pending in the present application, and currently all of the claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection - Claims 1-5:

Claims 1-5 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the previously applied Suso reference. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

Rather, than addressing the Suso reference on the merits, Applicant respectfully submits herewith an Inventor's Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, signed by the inventor of the above referenced application. Applicant submits that the submitted declaration, and its attached Exhibits, demonstrates that the inventor of the present invention were in possession of the present invention prior to the February 23, 2000 U.S. filing date of the Suso reference.

Specifically, Applicant notes that the inventors were in possession of the invention prior to February 23, 2000 and diligently pursued the filing of the Japanese Application No. JP 2000-232710, which is the priority document to the above referenced application. It is also noted that an English translation of Japanese Application No. JP 2000-232710, is provided to aid in

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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demonstrating that the present application was completely in possession of the inventor prior to February 23, 2000.

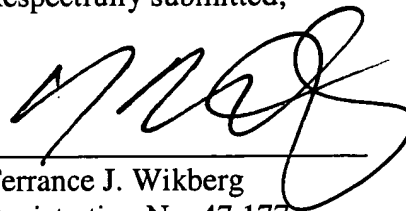
In view of the foregoing discussion, and the attached Inventors' Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, Applicant hereby submits that the Suso reference is not available as prior art under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and, as such, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of the claims 1-5.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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